

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Responsive to the Office Action of March 15, 2006, and pursuant to an interview with Examiners Abrishamkar and Zia conducted on March 30, 2006, Applicants present herewith new Claims 35 through 48 which are believed to distinguish patentably over the prior art of record in this application including U.S. Patent 6,233,567 to Cohen.

In particular, Claims 35 and 45 are directed to a procedure for protecting software and a protective device for protecting software wherein a producer of the protective device, a licenser of software and a licensee of the software interact in accordance with a patentably distinct method and a protective device is provided by the producer of the device and is utilized by a licenser of software and a licensee of software in a manner which is believed to be patentably distinct.

New Claim 35 is directed to a procedure for the protection of information comprising at least one of computer software and computer readable data on a computer of a licensee of the information wherein a protective device is provided directly or indirectly by a producer of the device and a so-called Firm Code is provided by the producer to a licenser of the information, a so-called Private Box Key is stored in the device which is defined by and known only to the producer to certify the device

as being one which is authentic from the producer, and a so-called Firm Common Key is transmitted from the producer to a licensor of the information and which is determined by the Firm Code. Still further, a Secret Firm Key is defined by the licensor which is known only to the licensor and is transmitted to the device for storage therein.

In at least the above-noted respects, the process set forth in Claim 35 and the claims dependent thereon (Claims 36 through 44) distinguish over the Cohen reference in that Cohen does not disclose or suggest the provision of a relationship between a producer of a protective device, *per se*, and a licensor and licensee of software. Accordingly, consideration for allowance of Claims 35 through 44 is respectfully requested.

Applicants present with this amendment new Claims 45 through 48 which are also believed to be patentably distinct in that a protective device is set forth in these claims which is furnished to a licensee of information directly or indirectly from a producer, is separate from but adapted to be connected to a computer of the licensee and includes the Private Box Key stored therein which is defined and known only to the producer. Thus, the protective device is a separate standalone device not forming part of a computer of a licensee of information furnished by the licensor, and the device is operable to

generate so-called Public Box Keys and Public Serial Keys for receiving license parameters. A Private Box Key and a Private Serial Key associated with the device are operable to decode the license parameters. Still further, the device is operable to decode information using a Firm Key stored in the device which is defined by a licensor of the information and is known only to the licensor. Moreover, the device includes as a separate standalone device the elements set forth in Claim 45. The Cohen reference, as well as the other art of record, fails to disclose or suggest the provision of a separate protective device having the features set forth in Claim 45 and the claims dependent thereon (Claims 46 through 48) and these claims are also believed to be patentably distinct.

Applicants have made a further diligent effort to advance the prosecution of this application by requesting and conducting an interview with Examiners Abrishamkar and Zia, the substance of which interview as set forth in the Interview Summary dated March 30, 2006 is correct. The courtesies extended by Examiners Zia and Abrishamkar in the interview of March 30, 2006 are appreciated.

New Claims 35 through 48 are believed to be patentable for the reasons set forth herein and an early Notice of Allowance of

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the claims now pending in this application is respectfully  
solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michael E. Martin  
Michael E. Martin  
Registration No. 24,821  
Agent for Applicants

Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP  
1601 Elm Street, Suite 3000  
Dallas, Texas 75201-4761  
Phone (214) 999-3000  
Fax (214) 999-3623

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